

Kansas City's 'Operation Hello' Helps Break the Racial Barrier

KANSAS CITY (AP) — "Hello, hello!" he finally managed to say, "It's nice to hear your name, and I'm just calling to say hello."

The man on the other end of the line was a Negro. Kansas City was undergoing the worst racial disturbance in its history, and a friendly call from a white man he didn't even know was just about the last thing he had expected.

The method: Conduct a sort of chain letter by telephone. People call members of another race, mention the name of a mutual acquaintance and exchange names of friends to call. That's all there is to it.

Ottosen, a slim, 43-year-old counselor with the Neighborhood Youth Corps, told how the idea came to him during racial troubles last month in which six Kansas City Negroes died and nearly \$1 million in property was destroyed by fire.

"I just got to thinking there must be something ordinary people could do to keep this from happening again," the India-born son of missionary parents said softly.

Kansas City's shooting and burning ended in a few days, but "Operation Hello" is still snowballing along. Ottosen said he has no idea how many people are involved, but already several hundred whites and Negroes have made thousands of calls.

Wilbur Goodseal, 38, a Negro speech consultant with the city school board, reported surprise to be the initial reaction of whites he has telephoned in Operation Hello.

"You get a slight silence at first," he said. "Then they become quite enthusiastic and eager to discuss things."

"People on both sides need reassuring that there are people concerned about their welfare. Whites are learning Negroes are just as worried about the violence going on as they are."

Goodseal added the telephone talks could lead to personal meetings between whites and Negroes who ordinarily might have little if any contact with each other.

"It's a very warm, friendly thing," he said, "but very difficult to describe unless you've tried it."

Graduates Honored At Nichols Church

NICHOLS — The high school eighth grade graduates affiliated with the Methodist church were honored Sunday at worship services. The girls were presented with corsages and the boys received boutonnieres. The senior girls also were given white Bibles and the boys, black Bibles. They were of the modern version. The high school graduates are Jerry and Terry Kruse, Karl Smith, Doug Chown, Pat Carter, Roger Swanson, Debbie Bieri, Danny Mills and Linda Abbott. Eighth grade graduates are Gordon Bieri, Tommy Baxter and Judi Page. Rev. Hart congratulated them and spoke a few words of encouragement and advice to them.

A vacation Bible school is being planned for the Methodist church to be held during the first week in June.

Not a Person Plans to Leave Iowa's Tornado-Struck Towns

CHARLES CITY (AP) — If you think anybody is moving out of Charles City and neighboring Oelwein because the two cities were wrecked by tornadoes last week, think again.

The mayors of the two communities said Tuesday they don't know of anybody who is planning to pull out of the tornado-ravaged cities 50 miles apart in northeast Iowa.

"Not a person!" exclaimed Oelwein Mayor Samuel Mazzitelli, when asked if anyone was planning to leave his town of 8,200.

"No I haven't heard anyone say they were going to leave," said Mayor Harry Brenlon of Charles City, a city of 10,000.

Oelwein Mayor Mazzitelli said rebuilding of the first home in his city was to start Tuesday.

He said there is "still a great deal of work to be done" but added:

"Morale here has been real great. People have accepted this and now they're ready to go to work to rebuild."

Mayor Brenlon of Charles City said a couple of tornado-wrecked businesses are reopening in quest of huts and "we're going to go."

He said he "wouldn't want to make a guess" on how long it will take to clean up so that major rebuilding can start. He said the main problem is "a place to put" the debris, which has overloaded city dumps.

Insurance adjusters and inspectors met with the City Council in Charles City Monday to try to line up plans for inspecting damage making adjustments.

Brenlon said a public meeting would be held at 3 p.m. with federal officials to outline loan and other disaster relief programs available. A similar meeting is set in Oelwein at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The Charles City mayor said a delegation from Albert Lea, Minn., hit by a tornado last year, met with city officials Monday and "gave us some advice" about avoiding mistakes Albert Lea made in the tornado aftermath.

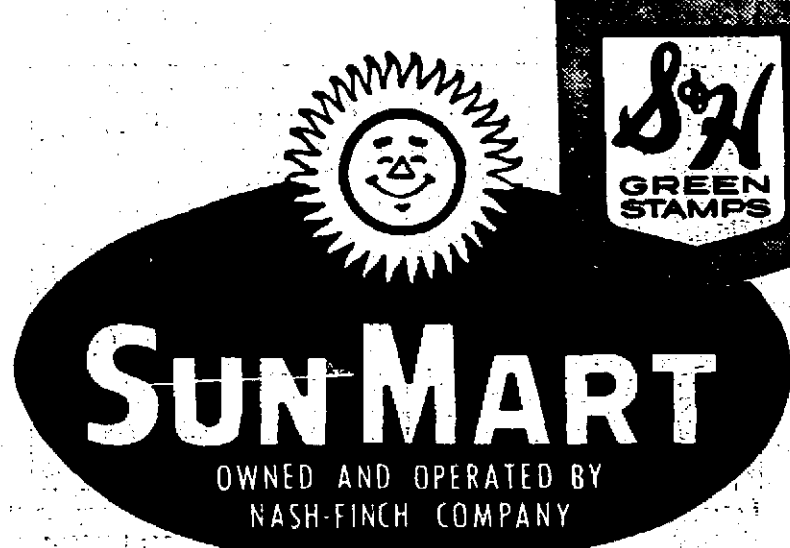
In Oelwein, Mazzitelli said a route for tourists to view the damage will be established.

Deeds Recorded


Lyle B. and Betty McCullough to John R. Hietmeister, warranty deed, lot 37 of Oakridge Addition to City of Muscatine.

John L. and Karen L. Hietmeister to Lyle B. and Betty McCullough, warranty deed, lot 37 of Oakridge Addition to City of Muscatine.

John N. and Janette E. Graham to Muscatine Island Cooperative Association, and Iowa Corporation, warranty deed, lot 4 of Graham subdivision in section 28-7-2W.



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